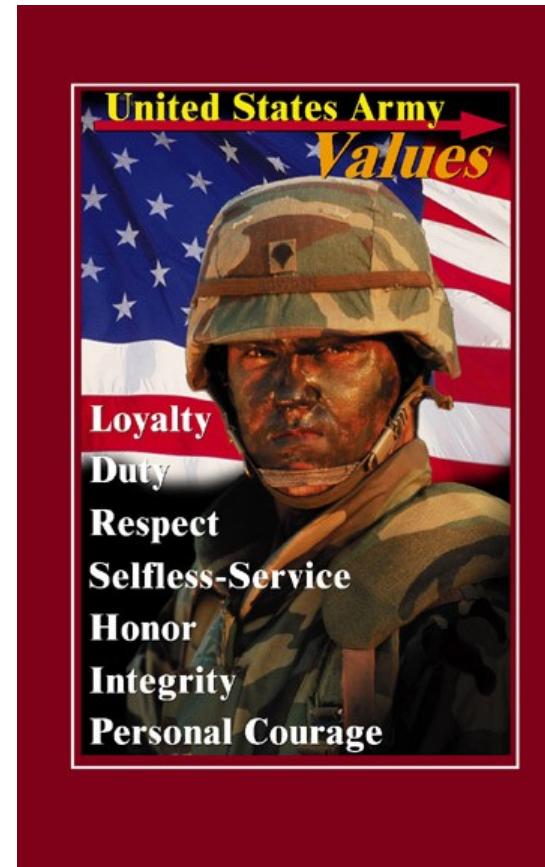


There are more Wiccans on some military installations than there are people adhering to the Muslim or Jewish faith.

Wicca, as it is practiced today, is a modern interpretation of ancient tribal ritual religions of Northern Europe, with few reservations about drawing on source material of other times and other cultures. Scholars in France and Germany independently examined evidence from a number of "witch trials" and concluded that the "witchcraft" as identified by the Inquisition in all probability actually contained the residual elements of old agrarian religions. There is ample evidence of scattered groups in pre-Christian times who shared similarities of beliefs, practices, and deities. Regardless, thousands of persons were tried, tortured and executed as "witches" between 1450 and 1792.

The revival or origination of Modern-day Wicca is



**"Soldiers On Point
for the Nation...
Persuasive in
Peace,
Invincible in War."**

**General Eric K.
Shinseki
Chief of Staff of
the Army**

CHAPLAINS SERVING FOR FAITH AND COUNTRY

Wicca

Perception vs. Reality



For more information contact your installation Equal Opportunity Office

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What is Wicca?

- The word "**Wicca**" is from the Old English word "wicce" which means "wise one". **Pagan** comes from the roman word "paganus" meaning "country dweller"
- A **Wiccan** is one who is in tune with nature and follows the 'rede'
- **Wicca** is one of the fastest growing religions in the world.

PERCEPTION: When some people hear the term "**Wiccan or witch**" they mistakenly think of outdoor worship involving some ancient "devil".

FACT: Wiccans do worship outside observing 8 seasonal festivals.

FACT: Wiccans do **not** believe in nor worship any form of devil.

Wiccans as part of the larger neo-pagan community are found in almost every country today.

Wiccans do not worship Satan, nor do they engage in any sort of blood rituals or sacrifice. The fact that Wiccans worship non-Christian deities may be interpreted by the misguided to mean that they worship the Devil, but nothing is further from the truth. Along with practicing Hindus and Buddhists, who far outnumber Christians in the world, Wiccans are certainly not alone, or even in the minority in their worship of non-

What do Wiccans Believe?

- *The divine can be seen represented as having both male and female attributes, known as "God" and "Goddess".*
- *The "Rede" or tenets of belief states that followers live a life that "harms none" including self and the environment.*
- *The 'rule of three' relates to the belief that what you do as good or bad, comes back to you three-fold.*

Definition

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Altar - small table for holding ceremonial tools often covered with an altar cloth.

Athame - sacred blade used for inscribing symbols but not cutting.

Book of Shadows - personal journal, workbook, and collection of rituals, meditations, chants, etc.

Candle - made of wax and burned in rituals for a variety of purposes.

Cauldron - often made of iron; can contain earth, incense, fire, water, or other items used in rituals.

Robe - ceremonial garment sometimes worn in rituals, celebrations, and on

A pentagram is a five-pointed star that represents the elements : fire, air, water, earth. The top point represents spirit.